

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~An apparatus~~ Apparatus ~~for the distribution of distributing~~ a random stream of items ~~[(10)]~~ into several lanes ~~(11 to 16)~~ in which are adapted to transport the items ~~(10)~~ are transported individually one after the other, the apparatus comprising:

a transport device ~~(20)~~ for the items (10) which has at least one or more driven conveyor belt~~[[s]], [(22)]~~ and a pair of side rails [(24)], displaced from one another and bordering the conveyor belt, the transport device transporting the stream of items in a direction of transport;

a lane divider ~~(30)~~ which has several including at least one movable divider~~[[s (34)]]~~ which divides adapted to divide the stream of transported items ~~[(10),]]~~; and

a device ~~[(40)]~~ for driving the lane divider ~~(30)~~, by which the dividers (34) being movable transversely to the direction of transport, characterized in that the lane divider (30) comprises a frame (32), to which the dividers (34) are fixed, and that the dividers (34) carry out a such that the at least one movable divider moves back and forth movement simultaneously in the direction of transport and transversely to it.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the at least one divider is one of several movable dividers which includes a middle divider (34) projects projecting against the direction of transport and ~~[[the]] side dividers (34) are set back staggered~~ with respect to the middle divider.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 2, characterized in that wherein~~ the distance between the side rails (26, 36) is
increased ~~stepwise~~ incrementally in the direction of transport, the increase commencing at a
point ~~which~~ in front of a front edge of a frontmost divider, wherein a distance from the edge
to the point corresponds approximately to a dimension ~~the diameter~~ of an one of the item (10)
items ~~in front of the tip of the frontmost divider (34).~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 3,
~~characterized in that the steps (28, 29, 38)~~ wherein the incremental increases are rounded in a
grooved manner.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~one of~~
~~claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the rail~~ wherein at least one of the side rails is divided and
[[the]] a part [[(36)]] of the rail ~~in the area of the lane divider (30) can~~ is adapted to be moved
outwards.

Claim 6 (New): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the front edge is formed
in the shape of a tip.

Claim 7 (New): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the dimension is a
diameter of a cylindrical item.

Claim 8 (New): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lane divider includes a frame,
and at least one movable divider is fixed to the frame.